<center>**Amendments to the Claims**</center>

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of ~~minimizing the cost of using a component~~ selecting a lowest cost component from among a number of candidate components of a computer program, the method comprising steps of:

    instrumenting said ~~component~~ candidate components to gather cost-related information for each of the candidate components during at least a partial run of said computer program;

    using the cost-related information to estimate a cost for using each of a plurality of explicitly selectable implementations ~~of~~ for [[a]] each candidate component in running the program, the cost-related information comprising a kind of use that is made of the candidate component or corresponding decisions made for other candidate components that interact with said candidate component; and

    based on the estimate of the cost ~~costs estimated~~, selecting, at runtime, one of the plurality of explicitly selectable implementations for a subsequent at least partial run of the computer program, the one of the plurality of explicitly selectable implementations selected being an implementation with the lowest cost.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the selecting step is carried out by an other component operable as a controller.

4. (Previously presented) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the selecting step is carried out by an application program.

<center>2</center>

5. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium including computer instructions for carrying out a method of minimizing the cost of using a component of a computer program, the method comprising steps of:

instrumenting the component to gather cost-related information during at least a partial run of said program;

using the cost-related information to estimate a cost for using each of a plurality of explicitly selectable implementations in running the program, the cost-related information comprising a kind of use that is made of the component or corresponding decisions made for other components that interact with said component; and

based on the costs estimated, selecting, at runtime, one of the explicitly selectable implementations for a subsequent at least partial run of the program.

6. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 5, wherein a default implementation is used during the at least partial run.

7. (Original) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 5, wherein the selecting step is carried out by an other component operable as a controller.

8. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 5, wherein the selecting step is carried out by an application program.

9. (Currently amended) A computer ~~program~~ system comprising a plurality of components which interact during running thereof, at least one of the components comprising:

a) a plurality of explicit selectable alternative implementations;

b) a common interface and semantics for receiving messages from another one of the components and sending messages thereto;

c) an instrumentation for gathering cost-related information during at least a partial run of the computer program, the cost-related information comprising a kind of use that is made of the component or corresponding decisions made for other components that interact with said component;

d) a cost estimator for using the cost-related information to estimate a cost for using each of the explicit selectable alternative implementations; and

e) a selector for choosing, at runtime, one of the alternative implementations in response to a message received at the interface from one of an application program and another one of the components.

10. (Currently amended) The computer ~~program~~ system as set forth in claim 9, wherein one of the alternative implementations comprises a default implementation which is operational before operation of the selector.

11. (Currently amended) The computer ~~program~~ system as set forth in claim 9, the selector being operable to choose an alternative implementation based upon a cost measurement by the instrumentation.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of providing the candidate component with the plurality of ~~explicit~~ explicitly selectable implementations which share a common component interface and semantics.

13. (Currently amended)   The ~~method~~ medium of claim 5 further comprising instructions for ~~a~~ ~~step of~~ providing the component with the plurality of ~~explicit~~ explicitly selectable implementations which share a common component interface and semantics.